(c) if so, whether the State Government has requested to grant SC status to them; and

(d) if so, by when they would be given such status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Namasudra, Pod and Poundra communities in respect of West Bengal and Namasudra community in respect of Orissa had been specified as Scheduled Caste as per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950

(c) The State Government of Uttaranchal has proposed inclusion of persons belonging to Namasudra, Pod and Majhi castes within Bengali community who had acquired Indian citizenship and had been displaced between 1952 to 25th March, 1971 and migrated to those areas which are now part of Uttaranchal.

(d) No time frame can be assigned as the proposal requires consultation with various agencies.

Mentally retarded persons

†1287. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of mentally retarded people is increasing repidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mentally retarded persons during the last three years, State-wise and age-wise;

(d) the steps being taken by Government for welfare of the mentally retarded persons in Madhya Pradesh?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) during 58th round (July-December-2002), estimated number of mentally retarded persons in the country was 9.95 lakh. However, there is no evidence to show that the number of mentally retarded persons is increasing.

(c) The data regarding the number of mentally retarded persons during the last three years is not available.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing "Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme" under which financial assistance is being provided to 10 Non-Governmental Organizations in the State of Madhya Pradesh to run special schools for children with mental retardation and vocational training centres for the mentally disabled persons. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Purchase of Fitting of Aids and Appliances, aids and appliances are provided on need-basis to persons with disability including mentally disabled. The Ministry has also established a Composite Regional Centre (CRC) at Bhopal, which provides rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities including mentally disabled.

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities 72 (NT) is implementing a three year pilot project called "Supported Guardianship Scheme" in four districts of Madhya Pradesh namely Gwalior, Bhopal, Ujjain and Seoni. It is also providing financial assistance to two Respite Centres and two Residential Care Centres in Madhya Pradesh to provide services to persons with mental retardation. 82 legal guardians have also been appointed for such persons through Local Level Committees in the State. National Trust is also providing financial assistance for the training programmes under the "Community Based Caregivers Training Scheme" to provide services of trained Caregivers to the families as well as Relief,Institutions. The State level Nodal Agency Centre appointed by the National Trust in Madhya Pradesh has also conducted training programmes of Parents and Siblings and Rural Awareness Programme.

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) extends loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs for person with mental retardation through his/her parents or legal guardian or spouse and loan upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs to the parent's associations of the persons with mental disability to set up income generating activities. The amount of loan disbursed by NHFDC and number of beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount disbursed	No. of beneficiaries
2001-02	82.09	166
2002-03	160.32	329
2003-04	286.16	410

Schemes for OBCs

1288. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the grant sanctioned under the various schemes meant for OBCs during the last five years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme for computer centres for OBCs has been discontinued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) if not, by when the pending proposals of NGOs are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The State-wise and scheme-wise details are enclosed as Statement {*See* below).

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The new proposals of computer training are not being considered as the scheme is under revision.